



Education Committee

March 14, 2018

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) is Connecticut's statewide association of towns and cities and the voice of local government - your partners in governing Connecticut. Our members represent over 96% of Connecticut's population. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to towns and cities.

SB 453 An Act Concerning Classroom Safety and Disruptive Behavior

SB 454 An Act Concerning School Security

HB 5446 An Act Concerning Minor Revisions To The Education Statutes

CCM **supports the intent** of SB 453 with the exception of Section 9.

CCM supports all efforts to ensure students are provided a safe learning environment. However, we have concerns with certain aspects of these proposals as they may impose additional underfunded and/or unfunded mandates on municipalities. Additionally, many municipalities may currently have similar plans and systems in place and additional mandates could duplicate local efforts or hinder the delivery of services.

Section 9 of SB 453 would require local or regional board of education to maintain a social worker to student ratio of 1 social worker for every 250 students. CCM **opposes mandating this staffing requirement** as it does not take into account the ability of municipality to pay for additional staff.

CCM asks that the Committee amend this bill to include language that (1) better enables municipalities to share social workers to help provide an adequate staffing level and (2) allows for flexibility of implementation at the local level.

CCM **supports** SB 454.

Section 2 of **SB 454** requires local or regional boards of education to submit a report to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Department of Education

detailing emergency response drills conducted in district and evaluations provided by local law enforcement. We are supportive of this requirement and conclude it is not overly burdensome to comply with the annual submission. In addition, these reports it will help determine the adequacy, preparation and emergency training of our school districts and will assist in developing best practices and address any shortcomings.

CCM supports Section 3, which provides additional funding for school security. This funding has been crucial in ensuring that school district facilities are properly outfitted to mitigate risks and threats and helping provide a safe learning environment.

Section 5, which requires municipalities to include notification protocol for all public and private schools and childcare facilities in their emergency operations plan. In many instances, emergency management directors have taken these entities into account in the development of their civil preparedness plan and it is only natural to formally include them.

Section 1 of **HB 5446** would require a school nurse that has already met current qualifications to complete an additional twelve hours of professional development during the first year of their employment. **CCM opposes this new training mandate as it could further strain local resources.**

Additionally, section 6 would require local and regional boards of education to implement truancy intervention and prevention models for students with disabilities. **CCM opposes the expansion of this current mandate and asks that the Committee amend this bill to include language that allows for flexibility of implementation of truancy prevention models for students with disabilities at the local level.**

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If you have any questions, please contact Daniel C. Giungi, Senior Legislative Associate for CCM, at dgiungi@ccm-ct.org or (203) 498-3023.